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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 274312

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 274312

FOL REPEAT LONDON 17619 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO
BRASILIA BOGOTA ABIDJAN ADDIS BABA ACCRA NAIROBI
MONROVIA AYAOUNDE BANGUI LUSAKA LIBREVILLE LOME
KIGALI FREETOWN NOV 15

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 17619

B FOR KATZ L FOR STOWE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, EAGR, AOUS
SUBJECT: ANGOLAN DELEGATION TO COFFEE CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STATE 270310 (B) STATE 270321
(C) LONDON 17553 (D) ADDIS ABABA 13419

1. U.S. DEL APPRECIATES GUIDANCE REF A, AND HAS
PROCEEDED WITH CONSULTATIONS AS INSTRUCTED. DEL HAS
SOME CONCERN THAT REFS A AND B REFLECT DIFFERENT
UNDERSTANDING OF FACTS THAN THAT HELD BY U.S. DEL. AS
INDICATED REF C, THERE ARE RUMORS THAT MEDINA, CHIEF
OF ANGOLA DEL AS ACCREDITED BY PORTUGAL, MIGHT SEEK TO
PRESENT CREDENTIALS FROM MPLA IN LUANDA. HOWEVER, SO
FAR THIS HAS NOT REPEAT NOT HAPPENED, AND ON INFORMATION
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PAGE 02 STATE 274312

AVAILABLE HERE WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT THINK IT LIKELY

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

EITHER THAT MEDINA WILL ATTEMPT TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS FROM MPLA OR, EVEN IF HE DID, THAT ANY SUCH CREDENTIALS WOULD BE ACCEPTED BY COFFEE ORGANIZATION. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY CONTRARY INOICATIONS FROM ADDRESSEES.

2. IN TELCON THIS MORNING, FRENCH CHAIRMAN OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE SCHWEITZGUTH TOLD MEMBER U.S. DEL THAT HE HAD SPOKEN WITH ARTUR MEDINA YESTERDAY. ACCORDING SCHWEITZGUTH, MEDINA, WHO HAS LONG REPRESENTED PORTUGAL AND ANGOLA AT COFFEE COUNCIL, RECOGNIZES THAT CREDENTIALS UQED BY PORTUGAL NO LONGER VALID SINCE ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE. MEDINA TOLD SCHWEITZGUTH HE COULD PROBABLY OBTAIN CREDENTIALS FROM MPLA IN LUANDA IF NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE IN ORDER TO ENABLE HIM TO SPEAK FOR ANGOLA AT CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS. SCHWEITZGUTH TOLD MEDINA THAT LATTER COURSE WOULD NOT BE A GOOD IDEA. MEDINA APPARENTLY AGREED, BUT NOTED FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE OF ANGOLA BEING REPRESENTED BY HIM DE FACTO AT THE NEGOTIATIONS, WHATEVER THE LEGALITIES. SCHWEITZGUTH, REFLECTING CONSENSUS OF BRIEF DISCUSSIONS AT FIRST CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 12, TOLD MEDINA THAT THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT SOLUTION BE FOUND PERMITTING ANGOLAN COFFEE INTERESTS TO BE ARGUED AT NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT INVOLVING COFFEE CONFERENCE IN ANY POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT.

3. PRIOR TO RECEIPT REFS A AND B, AND AGAIN THIS MORNING, U.S. DEL HAS BEEN CONSULTING WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING UK, FRANCE, CANADA, FRG, BRAZIL, OAMCAF AND SCRETARIAT. THERE IS NO DISSENT AMONG THIS GROUP THAT (1) COFFEE COUNCIL SHOULD NOT TAKE ANY STEP WHICH IMPLIES RECOGNITION OF ANY GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA, BUT, (2) THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ANGOLAN COFFEE INTERESTS HAVE A VOICE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. THERE IS FURTHER CONSELSUS AMONG THOSE CONSULTED THAT EMBARRASSMENT TO COFFEE ORGANIZATION AND TO MEDINA PERSONALLY SHOULD BE AVOIDED INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE, AND THUS SOLUTION SHOULD BE WORKED OUT IN AS LOW KEY MANNER AS POSSIBLE, WITH FORMAL COUNCIL ACTION LIMITED TO CONSENSUS RATIFICATION OF QUOTAS AGREED ON IN CORRIDORS.
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4. IN CONSULTATIONS, U.S. DEL NAS MADE POINTS OUTLINED REF C THAT EVEN IF PRESENTED THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION OF ACCEPTING ANY CREDENTIALS FROM ANY PURPORTED GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA, SINCE ANGOLA NO LONGER A MEMBER IN ANY EVENT AND SINCE MAJORITY OF COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE NOT RECOGNIZED A GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA. U.S. DEL HAS ALSO MADE POINT THAT NEITHER OBSERVER STATUS NOR

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

COUNCIL RESOLUTION WLONG LINES OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA
PRECEDENT DEEMING ANGOLA A OROVISIONAL MEMBER WOULD BE
SATISFACTORY, SINCE EITHER MIGHT APPEAR TO IMPLY
"RECOGNITION" BY THE COUNCIL OF A GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA.
THOSE CONSULTED HAVE ACCEPTED THESE ARGUMENTS IN

DISCUSSIONS.

5. IT IS INTERESTING THAT RAFEALLI OF BRAZIL SEEMS TO
BE IN ACCORD UITH OTHERS ON THESE GENERAL POINTS.
RAFAELLI STATED THAT BRAZILIAN POLICY IS TO RECOGNIZE
WHATEVER GOVERNMENT IS IN LUANDA, BUT ALSO TO AVOID
INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE AGREES THAT MEDINA
CREDENTIALS ISSUED BY PORTUGAL ARE NO LONGER VALID AND
THAT, AT LEAST BECAUSE ANGOLA NO LONGER A MEMBER SINCE
INDEPENDENCE, NO ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT CREDENTIALS COULD BE
ACCEPTED. RAFAELLI SAID HE MIGHT OBTAIN FURTHER
INSTRUCTIONS, BUT NOTED THAT A SOLUTION MIGHT BE THAT
COUNCIL NOTE THAT PORTUGUESE LETTER OF CREDENTIALS HAD
EXPIRED, ANGOLA WAS NOT NOW FORMALLY A MEMBER AND
CREDENTIALS FPOM ANGOLA GOVERMENT IF OFFERED, COULD NOT
BE ACCEPTED FOR THAT REASON, BUT THAT COUNCIL RESOLVE
THAT MEDINA CONTINUE TO REPRESENT ANGOLA PENDING ANGOLAN
RE-ENTRY INTO AGREEMENT VIA NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES OF
ARTICLE 65. U.S. DEL REPLIED THAT SUCH A SOLUTION MIGHT
INVOLVE COUNCIL ON UNFORTUNATE POLITICAL RECOGNITION
PROBLEMS. RAFAELLI EMPHATICALLY AGREED THAT COFFEE
COUNCIL SHOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN POLITICAL
SITUATIONS, BUT EMPHASIZED AS WELL THAT ANGOLAN INTERESTS
SHOULD BE ARGUED AT NEGOTIATIONS, AND EXPRESSED INTEREST
IN SOLUTION ACHIEVING THOSE ENDS.

6. U.S. DEL SEES TWO POSSIBLE RESOLUTIONS WHICH MIGHT
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MEET GOALS OF ALL. WE HAVE FLOATED THESE INFORMALLY
IN CONSULTATIONS NOTING EXPRESSLY THAT THEY WERE ONLY
PERSONAL IDEAS AND WE WOULD REQUIRE INSTRUCTIONS FROM
WASHINGTON. ONE SOLUTION MIQHT BE, AS NOTED REF C, TO
AWAIT END OF CONFERENCE BEFORE COUNCIL MADE
DETERMINATION ON CREDENTIALS. THIS REPORT WOULD NOTE
THAT ANGOLA NO LONGER A MEMBER SINCE NOVEMBER 11, SO NO
CREDENTIALS COULD BE ACCEPTED. AS NOTED REF C, THIS
SOLUTION ALLOWS MEDINA TO CONTINUE TO SPEAK FOR ANGOLA
DURING NEGOTIATIONS, WHILE MAKING CLEAR AT THE END THAT
COUNCIL WAS TAKING NO POSITION ON GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA
AND THAT MEDINA HAD NO LEGAL OR FORMAL STATUS. POSSIBLE
DEFICIENCIES OF THIS SOLUTION ARE THAT IT RISKS
INVITING A RACE TO NOTIFY THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL AND
SEND IN NEW CREDENTIALS. HOWEVER, THAT RISK PROBABLY

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

EXISTS IN ANY EVENT, AND WE REMAIN CONFIDENT COUNCIL WOULD NOT ACCEPT CREDENTIALS FROM MPLA IN ANY EVENT. FURTHER, SCHWEITZGUTH'S READING OF MEDINA - SCHWEITZGUTH DISCUSSION IS THAT MEDINA WOULD NOT SEEK TO PUSH MATTERS TO POINT OF CREATING EMBARRASSMENT FOR COUNCIL, SO LONG AS HE IS ABLE TO CONTINUE DE FACTO TO ARGUE FOR ANGOLAN INTERESTS DURING PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS.

7. SECOND SOLUTION MIGHT BE FOR CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE TO REPORT ALL CREDENTIALS WERE VALID AS RECEIVED AT THE TIME RECEIVED. SCHWEITZGUTH APPARENTLY RAISED THIS SOLUTION. BUT NOT THAT OUTLINED PARA 6 ABOVE, WITH MEDINA, WHO INDICATED IT APPEARED ACCEPTABLE TO HIM.

8. WE BELIEVE SECOND SOLUTION IN PARA 7 NOT SATISFACTORY SINCE IT WOULD BE OVERLY DISINGENUOUS, AND, THOUGH IT WOULD NOT MEAN -PPROVAL OF ANY CREDENTIALS ISSUED BY A PURPORTED GOVERNMENT OF INDEPENDENT ANGOLA, WOULD LEAVE SOME AMBIGUITY WHICH MPLA MIGHT ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT. UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE, WE WILL THERE-FORE CONTINUE TO PRESS STRONGLY, FOR FIRST SOLUTION OUTLINED PARA 6 ABOVE.

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PAGE 05 STATE 274312

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EO Systematic Review
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